

*Statement Of The Substance Of The Interview*

On February 05, 2008, Thomas Lees on behalf of the applicants conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Henning. Thanks to the Examiner once again, for his time and consideration during the telephone interview. No demonstrations or exhibits were utilized. An unofficial proposed amendment was included in the corresponding Request For Interview transmitted to the Examiner via facsimile transmission on Feb. 04, 2008.

The unofficial proposed amendment to claim 1 was discussed in general terms and with regard to WO 99/56194 to Bartolomeos *et al.* (hereinafter '*Bartolomeos*') in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/055388 to Kaliski, JR. (hereinafter '*Kaliski*'). The details of the applicants' arguments during the interview are substantially as set out as part of the arguments presented in this paper. The thrust of the Examiner's arguments can be seen in the corresponding office action.

During the interview, the applicants pointed out that the claimed invention is directed towards impersonating a client by a middle-tier server to a back-end server. In this regard, the unofficial proposed amendment to claim 1 recites that a middle tier server obtains a common nonce that is created based at least in part upon a pre-nonce contribution from each of a plurality of back-end servers, wherein the common nonce is generated from an entity *other than the client* that the middle tier server is to impersonate or the plurality of back-end servers that the middle tier server is to interact with on behalf of the client.

The applicants further pointed out that the unofficial proposed amendment to claim 1 recites that the middle tier server receives a request from the client for a transaction with at least one of the plurality of back-end servers, provides the common nonce to the client and receives the common nonce signed by the client with the client's digital signature at the middle-tier server.

The applicants argued that at least these features are neither taught nor suggested by *Bartolomeos*, *Kaliski* or the combination thereof as set out more fully in the response herein. The Examiner agreed that the unofficial proposed amendment to claim 1 differentiates over *Bartolomeos* in view of *Kaliski*, but further suggested that the claim more clearly recite that the middle tier server is impersonating the client to the selected back-end server. Claim 1 as amended and presented herein, includes the unofficial proposed changes discussed during the interview, as modified to further recite more clear language with regard to impersonation of the client by the middle tier server as suggested by the Examiner.

No other substantive matters were discussed and no further conclusions were reached.